

Simon Pek

Thank you for considering me as a candidate for this important committee. For those I haven't yet had the chance to meet, I've been with Gustavson since 2017, working in the area of business and society. I currently serve as Associate Director of the Centre for Regenerative Futures, and my research is driven by a deep interest in strengthening democracy and voice within organizations like unions, coops, and universities. Like many of you, I've felt frustrated with aspects of the recent decanal selection process. That said, I see the search for a permanent dean as a real opportunity: a chance to reset, refocus, and come together as a community to shape the future of our school. If selected, I commit to working as hard as I can alongside my peers to: 1) Consult widely to ensure the selection criteria reflect our shared priorities and aspirations; 2) Champion openness and accessibility so that anyone interested in the role feels genuinely welcome to apply; 3) Assess candidates fairly and objectively based on their application materials and colleagues' feedback on their presentations; and 4) Communicate transparently: sharing what I can, when I can, while fully respecting the confidentiality required of the process. If you have any questions about my nomination—or ideas on how we can make this process as positive and effective as possible—I'd be very happy to connect.